(c) The Railways freight share is about 40% of the total land freight. The decline in the Railways freight market share can be attributed largely to the rapid growth of the road network which has penetrated even the remotest areas thereby expanding the roads' market share, whereas the Railways development has been affected due to the sharp reduction in the budgetory support

Train from Surat to Patna

714. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no direct train from Surat to Patna,

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce a direct train between these stations:

(c) if so, the details thereof: and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no direct train between Surat and Patna.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Operational and resource constraints

[Translation]

Reservation Centres

715 KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether the number of railway reservation centres in the country is very less and the public is facing great inconvenience as a result thereof;

(b) if so whether the Government propose to open more reservation centres, and

(c) if so, the details alongwith locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The facilities for making reservations on trains have been provided at all stations over the Indian Railways where reservation quotas are available At other stations, where trains having reserved accommodation stop, advance reservation may be made by sending messages to the stations where such quotas are available. Over 92% of the reservation workload of the Indian Railways has been computerised covering 275 locations and Annual Plan of 1996-97 provides for coverage of 55 additional lacations Provision and extension of reservation facilities at additional stations and other locations is a continuous process

[English]

Gauge Conversion in Andhra Pradesh

716. SHRI L. RAMANA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of proposals for conversion of Railway Line from Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge in Andhra Pradesh are awaiting clearance from the Government;

(b) if so, details of each project alongwith the allocation of funds separately,

(c) whether any new projects for conversion have been undertaken;

(d) if so, the details thereof and criteria being adopted for their selection, and

(e) the time by when these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) and (e) Details of projects, currently in progress in Andhra Pradesh, together with their targetted date of completion are given below :

S No	Project	Target Date for Completion
1	Dronachellam-Kurnool-Mehboobnagar	1997-98
2	Nandyal-Guntakal	1996-97
3	Guntakal-Kalluru	1997-98
4.	Katpadi-Pakala-Tirupati	1998-99
5	Mudkhed-Adilabad (Partly in Andhra Pradesh)	1997-98

All the above projects have been taken up on consideration of development of alternative routes and generation of additional carrying capacity.

[Translation]

Cow Slaughter

717 SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the incident of cow slaughter, agitation broke out in the Patel Nagar area of Dehradun in Uttar Pradesh,

(b) if so, the number of persons including police officers/workers killed/injured therein; and

(c) the number of persons arrested and the action taken against them?